significance of city hall

construction, a predilection for the forthright and the utilitarian and the stable, a willingness to tolerate variation, an ability to establish unity form a great many seemingly disparate elements, a belief in oneself and in the future, an insistence on honesty, integrity and self-reliance. Those values and beliefs are, it can be argued, the values and beliefs that constitute the cornerstone of the American democracy.

To contemplate the city hall from the perspective of the present is, therefore, to contemplate the ethical structure of pioneer America. It is inevitable that we compare and contrast ourselves and our world with the world that is embodied in brick and bluestone in the building before us. We are, to be sure, neither better nor worse because of our similarities to and our differences from pioneer America. But because we have, in undertaking that experience, seen ourselves in terms of our ethical roots, we are the better for the experience.

To contemplate city hall from the perspective of the present is, at the same time, to contemplate an aesthetic structure that was created during the late nineteenth century in America. To contemplate that structure as an autonomous aesthetic phenomenon is to regard the givens embodied therein as ends unto themselves. Those givens are, to be sure, neither more nor less valid that the givens of our world.

If, in contemplating that structure, we acknowledge that fact, we have learned the meaning of tolerance. To contemplate the givens embodied in Carbondale City Hall from the perspective of the present and as ends unto themselves is, therefore, to contemplate a phenomenon that is, in fact, a work of art.

Regarded (1) as an architectural phenomenon, (2) as an historical phenomenon, and (3) as a phenomenon that illustrates and interprets the history of the United States, Carbondale City Hall is a building of great importance.

CARBONDALE CITY HALL. This is a sketch of the proposed building designed by Binghamton architect, Truman I. Lacey, and completed in 1894.

Raffle tickets on sale

The Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall has announced that tickets for the 50-50 raffle being held to raise money for repairs to city hall are on sale now for $1. Committee members and volunteers are selling the tickets.

Those who wish to sell tickets for the committee are asked to stop in at fire headquarters, at 10 Sixth Avenue and see Jim Brownell, Tom Brennan or Joseph Burrell during the following dates to pick up tickets: January 13 and 14 from 6 to 9 p.m., and January 15 to 22 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tickets are $1 and the winner will be chosen at a drawing to be held February 18 in City Hall Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m.

Anyone wishing to donate to the fund drive can send a check or money order to: "Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall," c-o The Carbondale NEWS, 41 North Church Street, Carbondale, PA 18407 or leave a donation with any cashier at the Liberty Discount and Savings Bank at 67 Salem Avenue.